

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. The Office Action withdraws claims 7-18 from consideration; rejects claims 1-6 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e); and rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicants traverse the rejection.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Habino et al. (US 2003/0126796). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Habino does not constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). The earliest U.S. filing date for Habino is December 20, 2002; however, the present application claims priority to an earlier Japanese application filed on October 11, 2002. Because the pending claims are entitled to the earlier Japanese application filing date, Habino does not qualify as prior art and this rejection is moot. Applicants thus attach hereto an accurate English translation of the Japanese priority document.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claims 1-6 and 19-21 are not anticipated by Habino. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are earnestly solicited.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Habino in view of DE 10297729. Applicants traverse the rejection.

This rejection is predicated on the notion that Habino discloses each claimed feature except for "the catalyst which would promote oxidation of the odorant." As discussed above, Habino does not constitute prior art to the pending claims; thus, the rejection is moot.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 18 is patentable over Habino in view of DE 10297729. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
English-language Translation of JP 2002-298505

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